local population through various water supply schemes.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Regular pumping is being done from Dharmaband mine. It is regular practice for sparing some quantity of the water pumped out from the mine for use of local population as and when requests from district administration are received.

Production of Coke of BCCL

2132. **SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the production of coke of BCCL (BH and BP, separately) during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) what has been the real impact of cheap imports of coke of Chinese origin on it's production of BH and BP coke, lifting of it's coking coal by domestic coke manufacturers and on it's stocks and prices of both coking coal and coke; and

(c) what is the present strength of workers and other staff in BCCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The production of B.P. and B.H. Coke in BCCL during the year 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given below:—

(Fig. in '000 tonnes)

Year	B.P.	B.H.	Total
1995-96	142.60	52.00	194.60
1996-97	158.20	57.30	215.50
1997-98	123.20	44.70	168.00

(b) The demand for coke produced by BCCL had declined and as a result the company is forced to cut down its production to avoid accumulation of heavy stock. The average monthly booking of coal by cokery units who are genuine buyer of coal for manufacture of hard coke in and around Dhanbad had also gone down. The total stock of coke (BP and BH) as on 31.3.98 was 52,000 tonnes as against 14,400 tonnes as on 31.3.96.

The company is not able to fix a remunerative price because of poor demand.

(c) As on 1.5.98, the strength of workers and staff in BCCL is 1,31,959 and that of executive is 3,134.

Amendment in the MMRD Act, 1957

2133. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 is to be amended; and

(b) if so, what are the objectives to be achieved by this amendment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the question.

Development of coal mines under Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

2134. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the development of coal mines under Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) during the Eighth Plan;

(b) the various development measures adopted in these coalfields during that plan period;

(c) the funds earmarked therefor in Ninth Plan; and

(d) the development measures adopted for the plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) During the 8th Five Year Plan, the amount spent on the development of coal mines under Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) was Rs. 866.90 crores.

(b) The development measures in the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) during the 8th Five Year Plan are given below:

(i) Five projects with annual production capacity of 10.83 million tonnes were completed with sanctioned capital outlay of Rs. 479.59 crores.

(ii) Three projects namely Samaleshwari (3.00 million tonnes per year), Bharatpur Augmentation (1.5 million tonnes per year) and Ananta Augmentation (1.50 million tonnes per year) have been taken up for implementation. Three advance action projects namely Hingula, Bhubaneswari and Kaniah are under implementation.

(iii) Besides the above, various programmes for welfare, community development and infrastructure improvement were taken up.

(c) For the Ninth Five Year Plan allocation for Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), as assessed by the Working Group on Coal and Legnite for formulation of 9th Five Year Plan, is Rs. 1800 crores.

(d) Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) plant to increase coal proudction from 37.96 million tonnes in 1996-97 to 47.25 million tonnes by the terminal year of the IX Five Year Plan (2001-02).

Operation of mines in Raniganj Coalfields

2135. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfield Limited has ceased operation of some mines in Raniganj Coalfields;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some unions have objected to this ceasation of operation; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the management in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The production in six highly loss making mines of ECL has been suspended.

(c) and (d) Some trade unions have protested against the suspension of production in these mines. But before suspension of production from these mines the matter was discussed by the management in several Joint Consultative Committee Meetings. Also a fact-finding Committee has been constituted by the management to go into the details of the circumstances leading to the suspension of the mining operation. It has also been informed to the trade union organisations that the workers of these mines have been suitably redeployed in other mines of ECL and no worker has been laid off, nor the service conditions of the workers have been affected.

New Projects by BCCL

2136. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) number of new projects started by BCCL since its inception;

(b) amount spent on each of them giving names;

(c) present state of each project, viable and non-viable;

(d) total loss suffered in each non-viable project;

(e) reasons for non-viability and loss; and

(f) steps taken on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (f) Since inception, BCCL has taken up 40 new projects. Out of these, 7 projects are under implementation; 29 projects have been completed and in 4 projects coal reserves have been exhausted. Details of these projects